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India

Agricultural Situation

Monsoon Progress Report No. 7

2005

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Report Highlights:

Monsoon activity further weakened over the past two weeks, which is likely to have a negative impact on production of peanut, soybeans, millet, and rice crops to be harvested this fall.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
New Delhi [IN1]
[IN]

Monsoon activity further weakened over the past two weeks, with rains mostly confined to northeastern states and a few places in central and south India, which were earlier experiencing below normal rainfall. Weather subdivisions receiving normal or above normal rainfall for the week ending August 17 shrunk to eight of the total thirty six, but increased to fourteen for the week ending August 24. Most parts of western and northern India, which had earlier received copious rains, remained dry for the third consecutive week. Rains during the past three to four weeks were significantly below normal in Saurashtra in Gujarat (peanut, cotton, millet), West Madhya Pradesh (soybeans), Rajasthan (millet and soybeans), and West Uttar Pradesh, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu (rice). Rains are badly needed in these regions for normal crop development. An early withdrawal of the monsoon from north and central India could not only jeopardize the standing crops, but could also adversely impact planting of wheat and other *rabi* (winter) crops this fall.

Cumulative rainfall from June 1 to August 24 was normal or above normal in 28 of the 36 weather subdivisions, compared with 29 a week ago (Figure 1). The all India area-weighted rainfall during June 1 to August 24 was 647 millimeters, three percent below normal, compared with five percent above normal three weeks ago (Figure 2).

Latest planting reports indicate that progressive rice planting has marginally exceeded last year's level, whereas planting of coarse grains, pulses, and oilseeds are marginally lagging behind last year's levels. There has been some increase in area planted to cotton and sugarcane. (For details, please see: <http://agricoop.nic.in/ncfcweather/NCFC25Aug/Ncfc25Aug05.htm>). Rainfall over the next six weeks is crucial in determining the final crop outcome.

Figure 1

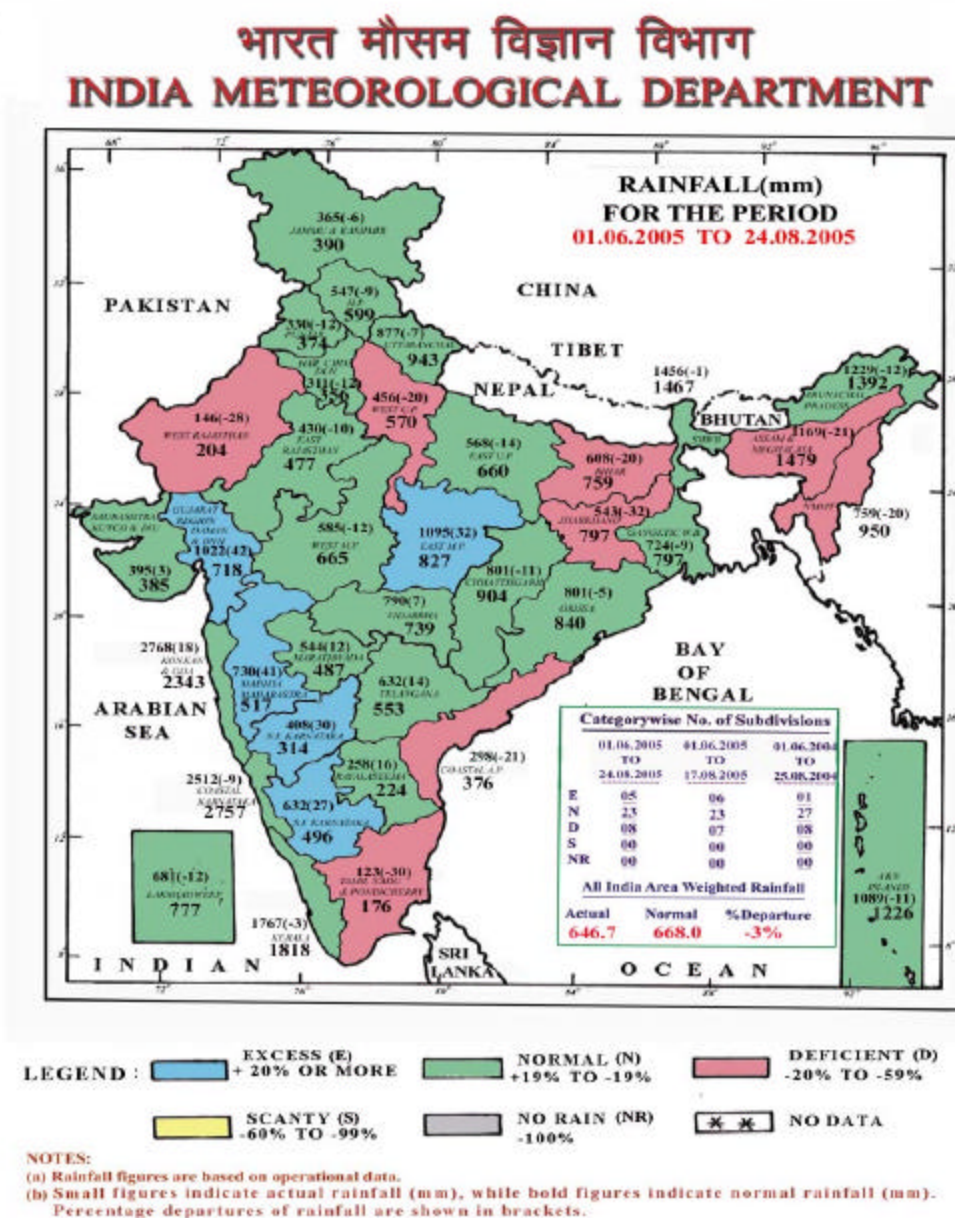


Figure 2

